

From: Robert Hencke
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:24am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am against the proposed Microsoft settlement. As a student in computer science, I take this issue very personally. Microsoft has used its monopoly in the OS market to crush any competing operating systems (e.g. Be (maker of BeOS, a pretty slick OS) was working on agreements with several computer companies to distribute the BeOS along with their computers, but Microsoft used its monopoly to threaten computer manufacturers into not including BeOS. In the end, only one company included BeOS with their PC, and even then it was hidden from the user, most never knew about it. The proposed settlement does not seem to address this issue.

Also, many open source projects (e.g. Samba and WINE) would be threatened by the proposed settlement. Samba is vital for many non-Windows computers to share files on a Windows network (Apple uses Samba in Mac OS X). Section III(J)(2) would give Microsoft the right to effectively kill these products.

This is one of many problems I can find with the proposed settlement. Microsoft has used its presence to bully, shut down and injure many companies and projects. This settlement does not address Microsoft's previous actions, nor does it prevent them from making similar ones in the future. This is an extremely critical decision, one that will have a very strong and lasting impact on the technology industry. I strongly urge you to reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,
Robert Hencke
Box 292 / 100 Institute Rd.
Worcester, MA 01609

(508) 341-0674